

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 373

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION commending the Department of Health on its commitment to newborn screening and urging it to coordinate genetic services with early intervention services.

WHEREAS, this State has a comprehensive genetics program which provides access to screening, diagnostic testing, and counseling services to individuals and families who have, or are at risk for, genetic disorders; and

WHEREAS, one major aspect of this genetic screening program is the comprehensive newborn screening program; and

WHEREAS, currently, all newborns in Tennessee are tested for genetic abnormalities; in the event a test proves the presence of an abnormality, the Department of Health works closely with the family to initiate retesting, confirmation, and, if necessary, treatment; and

WHEREAS, this State has been conducting newborn screening since 1968; and

WHEREAS, desirous to stay on the cutting edge, the Tennessee Department of Health purchased and put in to use the most up-to-date testing equipment in 2003; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2004, the Department of Health began screening for 34 diseases which reflect up to 50 different genetic disorders; and

WHEREAS, this State is a model for the rest of the Nation concerning the important issue of newborn screening; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend the Department of Health for their commitment to newborn screening.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Health to coordinate its genetic services with its early intervention services and to continue to provide exemplary care for young Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.